

Wyld's very clear and excellent maps. These latter comprise a map of the world, showing the gold districts; one of the Australian gold districts; one especially of the district from Bathurst to Sydney and another of the Victoria gold district; and, finally, one of the gold districts of California.

A Lecture on Cotton, as an Element of Industry, delivered at the Rooms of the Society of Arts, London, in connexion with the Exhibition of 1851. By THOMAS BAZLEY, Esq. Longman, Brown, and Co. 1852.

THIS interesting lecture by the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures at Manchester, and which has been already noticed in our columns, has been printed chiefly for private distribution, but is also published by Messrs. Longman and Co. and will doubtless be thus also extensively circulated.

Miscellaneous.

BUCKS AND BEDS ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this society was held at Aylesbury last week. In the morning the society visited the ruins of Quarrendon Church, which at the present moment presents a pitiful spectacle, the roof being off, part of the walls only standing, and the ancient monuments, slabs, and tombstones, having been carried off. They visited the old church of St. Mary, Aylesbury. Mr. Slater read a long paper on the "Ground Plans of Cathedrals," remarking that they were generally all cruciform in shape. He described St. Paul's, London, York Minster, Canterbury, Lincoln, Carlisle, Bristol, Oxford, Peterborough, Ripon, &c. remarking on their peculiarities. Mr. Hurst followed with a paper on "Municipal Corporations." The Rev. W. H. Kelke read a paper on the "Sculptured Monuments of Bucks." The Rev. J. Taddy followed, with an essay on "The Moral and Intellectual Character of Mediæval Architecture." The Rev. W. J. Burgess read a paper on "The Fortifications of the Northern Division of the County of Bucks," and the Rev. A. Baker delivered an interesting discourse on seats and other furniture in churches. The members of the two societies then proceeded to view the church restorations and other objects of interest, and met afterwards at dinner in the White Hart Hotel, where the Bucks society accepted an invitation to hold the next union meeting at Bedford.

THE TRAMWAY IN MAIDEN-LANE.—Seeing in your useful publication of last week some pertinent remarks on taking away the tramway in Maiden-lane, Covent-garden, by the parochial authorities, allow me, the late surveyor of pavements in that parish, to give you some of the *facts* connected with that paving. About thirty years ago Maiden-lane was repaved with granite, gutters on each side with gulleys, instead of as before with pebbles and a gutter in the middle (the old style of paving). After the footways had had the wear of twenty-two years, and required re-paving with Yorkshire, this was done; and the noise from the constant traffic having much increased, especially at night, from the entrance to the back of the Adelphi Theatre having been made there, and from the narrowness of the lane all vehicles having to go the whole length to turn; it was thought proper, after mature consideration by the committee of management at that time, to have the whole footways and carriageway repaved with new stone, when a tramway was laid of 12 x 8 cob, to ease the traffic and mitigate the noise. This certainly was a *MAKE-SHIFT*—12 x 8 granite, instead of 18 x 12; which dimensions would have allowed for the difference between the width of wheels on a Pickford's waggon, about 7 feet, and cabs, a little more than 4 feet. All this work was done, however paradoxical it appears, for less than nothing, the parish funds actually gaining above five pounds. This strange circumstance occurred, through the contract for paving at that time being very low. The Chartered, Equitable, and London Gas Companies, with the New River, who have mains passing along there, paying for relay over their pipes, and a very liberal allowance for the old stone taken from there, caused the parish to

be in pocket through having the lane repaved. I believe, now, an examination will convince the most superficial observer that the taking away the 12 x 8 granite, under any pretext, to use as curb in other parts of the parish, is a robbery of the inhabitants of Maiden-lane, all of whom will find, from the noise being increased through taking away the tramway, that the fronts of their houses cannot be used for bedrooms.—Allow me to add, I am surprised it has escaped the notice of some of your correspondents, that those who are favourites can take a slice of ground out of the churchyard to add to their house, without any argu-eyed radical taking notice. This is done now at the house in King-street building by Mr. Treherne, as you will find by inquiry of the churchwarden.—P. S.

INAUGURATION OF THE LEEDS PEEL STATUE.—The bronze statue of the late Sir Robert Peel, by Behnes, was inaugurated at Leeds, on Friday in last week. The figure is 8 feet 6 inches high, and was cast in one piece at the works of Mr. F. Robinson, the Statue Foundry, in Pimlico. The base of the pedestal on which the statue is placed is of grey Aberdeen granite, and the shaft and moldings of red Aberdeen granite, dressed but not polished. The only inscription is the word "Peel" engraved in simple characters on the shaft. The summit of the pedestal is 11 feet 6 inches in height, and has been erected upon a foundation of 6 feet of concrete and 2 feet 6 inches of ordinary masonry. The area of the base is 12 feet by 10 feet 6 inches. The weight of the masonry is 27½ tons, and of the statue, 2 tons; the total measurement of solid masonry being 275 cubic feet. The site of the statue is near the Court House, the Coloured Cloth Hall, and the Commercial Buildings. None of the late statesman's family connections appear to have been present at the inauguration, though invited.

LIABILITY OF ARCHITECTS TO CONTRACTORS.—In the Bedford County Court, Prinr, a stonemason, claimed from Mr. Usher, an architect, 15*l.* odd, balance of 32*l.* alleged to be due to the plaintiff as a sub-contractor for extras. The sum of 16*l.* had been paid to the sub-contractor by Messrs. Francis, builders, the contractors (for a farm homestead), to whom it had been paid on a decision, according to agreement, by the surveyor, as to the proper amount. The plaintiff contended that he was not bound by the conditions beyond the original contract, and as the work executed by him exceeded the bill of quantities furnished by the defendant, he considered the latter was responsible for the difference. Evidence of extras having been ordered by defendant was given; but it appeared that the sub-contract was between the plaintiff and the Messrs. Francis, who received all moneys on account of the work. It also came out that the principal contractors had submitted to deductions in their charges for extras in the brickwork. The plaintiff was nonsuited, not having proved defendant's liability.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—It has been found by experiment that a battery of two plates at Greenwich has sufficient power to liberate the ball of 196 lbs. weight now erected in the Strand, and the necessary wires for the complete working of the telegraphic time-ball system are nearly ready, but an announcement that it would be put in operation on Thursday in last week was premature. The electrical dial in the centre of the thoroughfare opposite Hungerford Market has been fixed on its ornamented bronze pillar, and at night illuminated. The dial-plates are formed of enamelled glass, with the hours and minutes marked in stained glass on the base, and the pillar is surmounted by a gilt ball. The great ball or regulator is of a bright vermilion, cased with a gilt circle.—Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co. are said to have contracted for the construction of a line of telegraph between Cork and Belfast. The line from Dublin to Galway has been already laid down by the same firm. The proposed telegraph will extend from Cork to Dublin, from Dublin to Donaghadee, from which place it has now been submerged, across the North Channel, to

the Scottish coast at Portpatrick, through which there will be communication throughout by Edinburgh, northward as far as Aberdeen, and from Portpatrick southwards, to the great English interseverment or plexus of wires. The contractors have entered into arrangements for procuring poles and wires for the Irish portion of the line, and it is expected the entire will be completed within the next two months.

THE ETTY PAINTINGS AT EDINBURGH.—The Scottish Academy are in possession of five large works by Etty, namely, the three pieces of the "Judith," the "Beniah," and the "Combat," which they are said to have come into the proprietorship of at a cost not exceeding that of one of them, and on the understanding that the collection thus made would not be again dispersed. Nevertheless, it is said that an English picture-dealer having proposed to give 2,000*l.* for the "Combat," various members of the Academy are inclined to entertain the question, and according to the *Edinburgh Post* there is even a considerable chance of the picture being sold on this mere money consideration, although the Academy is not only in a flourishing condition, but has already reaped from Etty's pictures more than what was paid for them. Etty himself is said to have been influenced by the idea that the pictures by him in this Academy's hands would constitute a permanent collection.

IMPROVEMENTS IN IRON MANUFACTURE.—Mr. J. Jones, of Bilston, has taken out a patent for a method of constructing furnaces so as to preserve them as much as possible from the action of the fire. The claims are, for the use of water, or other cooling liquid, supplied, by proper troughs, to the doors, dampers, flue jamb plates, bridge plates, and back wall plates, of puddling, boiling, or heating furnaces, and for a tank under the bottom plate for cooling and preserving them; also for the employment of a flue for carrying off the heated air, sparks, and products of combustion, from a refinery furnace, and economisation of heat, by passing the heated air from same through the flues of, or around, a steam boiler.

SHEET LIGHTNING.—The frequency of this phenomenon, and the beauty of the display on several evenings of late, induces us to quote the following description of the meteor by Dr. D. P. Thomson:—"There is an electric phenomenon of peculiar character, termed sheet or summer lightning (*clairs de chaleur*), unaccompanied by thunder, or too distant to be heard. When it appears, the whole sky, but particularly the horizon, is suddenly illuminated with a flickering flash. Matteucci supposes that it is produced either during evaporation, or evolved (according to Pouillet's theory) in the process of vegetation, or generated by chemical action in the great laboratory of nature, the earth, and accumulated in the lower strata of the air in consequence of the ground being then an imperfect conductor. Arago and Kämtz have adopted a very different view of the nature of these lightnings, considering them as reflections of distant thunder-storms; and the author has often observed thunder-storms preceded and followed by this phenomenon. We have seen the cumulo-stratus cloud in the horizon start into view during the play of summer lightning. Sausure informs us that he observed sheet-lightning in the direction of Geneva, from the Hospice du Grimsel, on the 10th-11th July, 1783, while at the same time a terrific thunder-storm raged at Geneva. Howard mentions that from Tottenham, near London, on July 31st, 1813, he saw sheet-lightnings towards the S.E. while the sky was bespangled with stars, not a cloud floating in the air; at the same time a thunder-storm raged at Hastings, and in France, from Calais to Dunkirk. Arago instances the following illustration in support of his opinion, that this phenomenon is reflected lightning:—In 1803, when observations were being made for determining longitude, M. de Zeeb, on the Brocken, used a few ounces of gunpowder as a signal, the flash of which was visible from the Klenenberg, 60 leagues off, though these mountains are invisible from each other."